

present, when the contributions and influence of women enrich every facet of our national life, it seems remarkable that as recently as 1920 most American women were still denied their right to full participation in the political activity of this country. Our history continues to remind us that humanity's age-old enemies of ignorance and prejudice are not easily defeated.

But defeated they were, by an army of women and men who, inspired by the staunch courage and unswerving commitment of leaders like Susan B. Anthony, changed people's minds and the course of U.S. history. Using the classic tools of democracy—assembly and petition, exhortation and example, peaceful protest and political shrewdness—these champions of liberty won a lasting victory for civil rights. The fight was hard, the margins slim, and the outcome often in doubt. But after years of effort and sacrifice, after countless acts of courage and conscience, advocates of women's suffrage rejoiced as the Congress proposed an amendment to the Constitution in 1919 and as Tennessee, the last State needed for ratification, approved that amendment on August 18, 1920, by a single vote, when a young legislator heeded his mother's plea to support suffrage. On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was finally proclaimed part of the United States Constitution, fulfilling Susan B. Anthony's pledge that "failure is impossible."

Women's Equality Day, while a fitting occasion to commemorate this great victory of wisdom over ignorance, is also a time for sober reflection that American democracy is a work in progress. The Declaration of Independence was only the first step in our long journey toward equality for all Americans. And while we have made much progress, until all women have an equal opportunity to develop their full potential and to make contributions that are accepted and welcomed by our society, our freedom as a Nation will be incomplete.

Let us observe Women's Equality Day, then, both as a celebration of past achievement and a promise for the future: a promise to promote and protect with vigor and vigilance the rights of all our citizens; a promise to decry the policies of exclusion and to pursue the ideal of equality for every American;

and a promise to empower all of our people to take their rightful place as full and equal partners in the great American enterprise.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 26, 1995, as "Women's Equality Day." I call upon the citizens of our great Nation to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:32 a.m., August 17, 1995]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 17, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on August 18.

## **Statement on Welfare Reform**

*August 17, 1995*

In the past 2½ years, as part of my continuing effort to make Government better reflect the values of the American people, my administration has granted more State welfare reform experiments than in the past 12 years combined. Today, 33 States are experimenting in requiring welfare recipients to work for their benefits, requiring teen moms to live at home and stay in school, requiring delinquent parents to pay child support, and requiring recipients to be held to a time limit.

I am offering States a new, simpler way to achieve welfare reform. My fast-track demonstration initiative will let States build on strategies we already know are moving people from welfare to work. We must replace our broken welfare system with one that reflects the fundamental American values of work, responsibility, and family. When Congress returns, they should immediately put welfare reform at the top of their agenda and send me a tough, bipartisan bill that builds upon our progress. In the meantime,

I will continue to do everything in my power to move welfare reform forward in the States and in Washington.

peace and security throughout the Euro-Atlantic area.

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

## **Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Partnership For Peace**

*August 17, 1995*

*Dear Mr. Chairman: (Dear Claiborne:)  
(Dear Lee:)*

In accordance with Section 514(a) of Public Law 103-236 (22 U.S.C. 1928(a)), I am submitting to you this report on implementation of the Partnership for Peace (PFP) initiative.

The ongoing adaptation of Europe's security structures to post-Cold War realities remains one of our highest foreign policy priorities. A central element of this adaptation is the extension of NATO's zone of stability and security to include Europe's emerging democracies. Over the past year and a half the Partnership for Peace has made a significant contribution to this goal by forging new cooperative ties between the Alliance and its partners. This U.S. initiative has united NATO Allies with former adversaries and traditionally neutral states in a partnership based on respect for democratic principles, peaceful resolution of disputes, and practical cooperation. Consistent with our broad, inclusive approach to European security, the Partnership embraces 26 partner states, including Russia.

For all Partners, PFP will be an enduring instrument for forging stronger ties with NATO. For those Partners interested in joining NATO, PFP will be the path to membership.

Already, through joint training exercises and other PFP activities, PFP is helping interested Partners improve the ability of their forces to work alongside NATO's for possible future joint missions. As you will see from the attached report, NATO and its partners have made impressive progress in broadening and deepening the Partnership over the past year. We are working with our Allies and Partners to build on the Partnership's early momentum, in the shared conviction that cooperation and common action are among the best means to achieving lasting

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, and Claiborne Pell, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; and Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, and Lee H. Hamilton, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations.

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## **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### **August 11<sup>1</sup>**

The President announced his intention to nominate Linda Colvin Rhodes as Deputy Commissioner of the Social Security Administration.

The President announced his intention to appoint Beth Dozoretz to serve as a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

The President announced his intention to appoint Gregory Lashutka and reappoint Paul Burke to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

### **August 14**

The White House announced that the President named Donald A. Baer as Assistant to the President and Director of Communications.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patricia J. Beneke to serve as Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nancy E. McFadden as General Counsel of the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Phillip J. Shepherd as Federal Rep-

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<sup>1</sup> These items were not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.